

JACKSON COUNTY LIBRARY LEVY WINS BY A LANDSLIDE!

The *Charleston Gazette* and other media sources reported on May 9th that the public referendum to provide funding for the Jackson County Library was approved by an overwhelming margin. Out of nearly 6,500 votes cast, the levy extension was approved by over 72% of the voters. Congratulations Jackson County!

LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETS IN PRINCETON

The West Virginia Library Commission met in its regular session at the gorgeous Princeton Public Library on May 4th. Among other items of business, a public hearing on the WVLC budget for the coming fiscal year was held and the upcoming plan for federal programs in West Virginia was discussed.

ABOUT THE STATE...

Wendy Johnston is the new library director at Shady Springs Public Library. She is a graduate of the University of North Texas and replaces **Carol Sponaugle** who retired. **Amanda Snyder** will be resigning as director of the Hampshire County Public Library to pursue new adventures out-of-state. The Hampshire County Board is currently seeking a replacement. The Library Board in Boone County will also soon be seeking a replacement director for the Boone-Madison Public Library to replace **Susan Mischler**, who resigned earlier this spring.

Turning the Page 2.0: A West Virginian's Experience With Learning about Library Advocacy

(Editor's note: Amy Lilly, Director of the Raleigh County Public Library recently completed "Turning The Page 2.0" training in library advocacy. **The WVLC strongly recommends to WV librarians that they learn the tools of library advocacy through the "Turning the Page" program and other training opportunities and begin telling their library's stories.** We asked Amy to share her experiences)

"I don't know how I am going to find funding for a building expansion."

"I've noticed our door counts decreasing. I wish I could get more patrons to come to the library."

"Ugh. I just ran into Mrs. Jones, and I froze up when she asked me if there was anything she could do to help the library."

These are just a sampling of some scenarios in which you may find yourself on a regular basis, and they are all examples of what I like to call Advocacy Opportunities. As librarians, we face opportunities to promote the library every day, but sometimes we are at a loss on what to say or to whom which is why I took the online training offered through the Public Library Association entitled *Turning the Page 2.0*.

Turning the Page 2.0 is a six week online, moderated course which teaches you how to advocate on behalf of your library. You learn what people across the country, including our elected representatives, think of libraries and their expectations. The greatest aspect of the class for me was the opportunity to brainstorm with librarians online across the country on how to tell your library's story.

(See **ADVOCACY** on page 2)

FROM THE SECRETARY...



**Karen E. Goff, Secretary/State Librarian
West Virginia Library Commission**

GRANTS-IN-AID FORMS DUE JUNE 1.

Grant's In Aid applications are due from public libraries to the WVLC by 5:00 PM on June 1, 2012. Those application forms are available [here](#). Information regarding local matching requirements is located at the [WVLC website](#). If you need assistance or information, please contact [John Paul Myrick](#) or [Denise Seabolt](#).

2012 SALARY SURVEY

The West Virginia Library Commission compiles salary information from West Virginia's public and academic libraries to not only meet reporting and planning requirements, but to also make recommendations to libraries regarding appropriate salaries. Libraries in the state have used this data to justify raises or other expenditures to improve library services. WVLC collects this data from libraries every other year.

We are requesting that you participate in this important survey. As in 2010, we are conducting the survey online. We feel libraries will find this application easy to use. The survey is now available for you to fill out by clicking [here](#).

Please complete the survey by June 29th. Please report current gross salary as of January 1, 2012 for each position.

BOOKMOBILE AND OUTREACH CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services, an affiliate of the American Library Association, offers annual awards to support attendance at the annual association conference. **This year's ABOS annual conference will take place in Richmond, Virginia from October 10 – 12.** For more information about this conference, ABOS, and these attendance scholarships, please see [the ABOS website](#).

ADVOCACY *(Continued from front page)*

We have heard Karen Goff call it the "elevator speech." You will learn how to tell your library's story when stuck in the elevator with one of your funding agency representatives! In addition, you learn to identify others in the community who could provide support for your library system and build mutually beneficial relationships. By the end of the class, you will have created an Advocacy Work Plan which will help you identify current obstacles, possible supporters to approach, what motivates these individuals to aid you, and how to follow up.

I highly recommend this course to anyone wishing to develop their leadership skills and garner support from their community. To inspire you to enroll, here is my "elevator speech" I created during this course. "In this country we are very fortunate to have access to a great deal of information. Libraries are the cornerstones in the foundations of our communities. They provide equal access to knowledge to our citizens and with that knowledge we are able to ensure the continuance of democracy. Librarians teach people how to access information in various formats. If we fail to support our libraries and librarians, we are weakening the very foundation of this country by limiting access to information to only those who can afford it. It is critically important that you continue to support your library system. Can I count on your support?"

Amy Lilly, Director
Raleigh County Public Library

LAST CALL FOR ARSL SCHOLARSHIP APPS!

WVLC is pleased to announce the formation of 2 Scholarships for this year's Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference in Raleigh, NC from September 27-29, 2012. [For more information, please check out this website.](#)

HARSHMAN NAMED WV POET LAUREATE

From Governor Tomblin's website www.governor.wv.gov

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin appointed Marc Harshman as West Virginia's Poet Laureate, filling the vacancy left by the late Irene McKinney who passed away in February 2012. Harshman's appointment is effective immediately.

"I'm pleased Marc has accepted this unique opportunity to serve as Poet Laureate," said Gov. Tomblin. "Whether it's one of his children's stories or a prose poem, Marc's creativity serves as a reminder of the immeasurable talent of West Virginia's authors. I hope, in this new capacity, he will continue to challenge himself and inspire a new generation of writers."

Harshman graduated from Bethany College with a Bachelor of Arts in 1973, Yale University Divinity School with a Master of Arts in Religion in 1975 and the University of Pittsburgh with a Master of Arts in English in 1978.

A poet and storyteller, Harshman has authored 11 children's books including "Only One," a Reading Rainbow review title on PBS TV and "The Storm," a Junior Library Guild selection, a Smithsonian Notable Book for Children, a Children's Book Council Notable Book for Social Studies, and a 1995 Parent's Choice Award recipient. Two new children's titles are forthcoming and he is at work on several other projects in both poetry and children's books.

Harshman is a recipient of the West Virginia Arts Commission Fellowship in Poetry, and his prose poems have recently won an award from Literal Latté and been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. His poems have appeared in numerous other journals and been anthologized in the landmark West Virginia poetry collection, *Wild Sweet Notes*, as well as by Kent State University, the University of Iowa, University of Georgia, the University of Arizona, and multiple volumes of Shepherd University's *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*.

Harshman resides with his wife, **Cheryl (the Library Director at the West Liberty Public Library)**, in Wheeling, W.Va. He has one daughter, Sarah.

PARTNER UP FOR KIDS

*Feds encourage partnerships between
libraries and Head Start programs to
improve early learning*

MLS Director Susan Hildreth joined Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, director of the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Office of Head Start in Washington on April 24th to announce a partnership between IMLS, the Office of Head Start, and the ACF's Office of Child Care. The three federal entities will be issuing an Information Memorandum to Head Start and Early Head Start Grantees and Delegate Agencies and Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Administrators, encouraging collaboration between early childhood programs and public libraries to help meet the educational needs of young children and their families.

"Nearly every public library in the country reports having delivered children's programs in the last fiscal year, and they've been doing so for years," said Hildreth. "This makes them obvious partners for literacy initiatives in communities large and small. The partnership we're announcing today will allow more children and their families to take advantage of the services libraries have to offer and enhance the benefits they receive from the programs of the Administration for Children and Families."

Speaking for her own office and on behalf of the Office of Child Care, Fuentes said, "Public libraries are rich learning environments for children, communities, and families." Noting that Head Start and the Center for the Book had a partnership in the 90s, Fuentes added, "We are here to formalize our relationship again and to do the necessary next steps."

Early childhood programs can use local librarians as consultants on such topics as extending lesson plans; aligning books with specific topics; providing material resources like puppets, music, and props; and providing ideas on expanding literacy throughout early childhood classrooms.

Editor's Note: Senator Jay Rockefeller's Office asked WVLC to help publicize this initiative as they are very interested in the results. For more information, please see [the IMLS website](#).



MEET YOUR CONSULTANTS!

WVLC Staff stand ready to assist libraries in numerous ways

With changing staff and changing responsibilities around the WVLC, we thought we would take a few paragraphs and tell you briefly about our consulting and professional staff and some of the services they provide:



JOHN PAUL MYRICK, Director of Library Development is a native Alabamian, and has worked in public and academic libraries since the age of 15 and joined the WVLC staff this year. He has served as Reference Librarian, Assistant Director and Director of public libraries in Alabama and Tennessee. A graduate of the University of Alabama, John Paul also serves on UA's faculty, teaching Collection Development, Library Administration and Management and Foundations of Information Science. Ask John Paul about library administration and management, GIA rules, collection development, personnel law, public library law and legislation, federal programs, collection development, continuing education, and genealogy and local history collections.

JANICE BICKHAM is a Reference Librarian in the WVLC Reference Library. She has served with the WVLC since 1998. She holds the MLS degree from the University of Alabama and is responsible for collection development and reference and research activities. Ask Janice about reference services, audio-books and WVLC InfoDepot databases.



MELISSA J. BROWN, Planning and Programs Consultant has been with the WVLC since 2011. Melissa has an extensive background in school, academic, government and public libraries as well as in private consulting. Melissa earned her MLIS degree at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Ask Melissa about Bibliostat, library development plans, community partnerships, collection development and weeding.

HEATHER CAMPBELL-SHOCK is the Cataloging and Automation Services Manager for the WVLC and has been with the Commission since 2003. She not only supervises the Technical Services staff, but also consults with libraries on numerous areas, including operations of the statewide library network. She holds the MLIS degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Ask Heather about graphic novels, sci/fi novels, social media, web design, catalog, acquisitions, collection maintenance, and research guides.



PLEASE THANK YOUR LEGISLATORS
FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF LIBRARIES!



West Virginia
Library Commission

CONSULTANTS *continued*

ROBIN CHESNEY has been with the state since 1979 and holds her MLS degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Robin is a Reference Librarian in the WVLC Reference Library and is responsible for the Government Documents Depository and Reference Services. She will be retiring at the end of June 2012. *Ask Robin about Government Information, Readers' Advisory, General Reference .*



SUSAN HAYDEN has been with WVLC since 1999 and serves as our Adult Services Consultant. She holds her MLS degree from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in Nashville and has an extensive background in publishing, non-profit operations and libraries, having worked at public libraries in Tennessee. *Ask Susan about Marketing, Reader's Advisory, Community Analysis, Community Partnerships, Database Training, the WV Center for the Book, Adult Literacy, Adult Programming Outside of the Box and WVLC Book Discussion Group program.*

SUZY MCGINLEY has served as WVLC's Children's Services Consultant for 12 years. The past director of the Mason County Library, Suzy holds her MLS from the University of South Carolina. Suzy has also worked in other library, retail and publishing posts prior to coming to WVLC. *Ask Suzy about Children and Youth Services including InfoDepot data bases related to these areas, Boys and Books, WV Children's Choice Book Awards, and programming of all types for Children and teens. Customer Service, including telephone etiquette, reference interviews, and more.*



SHANNON NEU is the Access Control Librarian within WVLC's Technical Services Unit and has been with WVLC since 2011. Shannon is responsible for authority control among the state's library networks and for providing training in cataloging, as well as assisting in maintaining the WVLC collections. *Ask Shannon about cataloging, authority control, cataloging local history and genealogical materials.*

HELP WV! GET YOUR MASTERS!

West Virginia needs professional librarians! Please consider going back to school to get your MLS or MLIS degree. The following schools have ALA-accredited online or nearly all online masters degree programs in library and information science:

[University of Maryland](#) [University of Pittsburgh](#) [Clarion University of Pennsylvania](#)
[Kent State University](#) [University of Alabama](#) [University of South Carolina](#)
[University of Kentucky](#) [University of Tennessee](#)

Many of these schools have financial aid packages, and financial aid may be available from the American Library Association and other sources.

Southeastern schools usually offer in-state tuition to West Virginia residents!

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL PROGRAM

*Project Compass seeks to alleviate impacts
from economic downturn*



Pictured are Judy Larry, Susan Hayden, Steve Warrick and Rik Rekowski

Library staff members representing 45 states and the District of Columbia met in Washington, D.C., April 25–26, for the Project Compass National Convening, an opportunity for 215 participants in the project to share ideas in support of public libraries' efforts to meet the urgent and growing needs of communities impacted by the economic downturn. Among the participants were Susan Hayden, Adult Services Consultant, West Virginia Library Commission, Steve Warrick, Reference and Outreach Librarian, Martinsburg/Berkeley County Library, Judy Larry, Director, Philippi Public Library, Barbour County, and Rik Rekowski, Director, Mary H. Weir Public Library, Hancock County.

Attendees shared stories of patron impact, and worked together to learn about common challenges and find new, 21st century solutions to support their local economies. The convening featured guest speakers Mary Chute and Susan Hildreth from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS); futurist Garry Golden; Assistant Secretary Jane Oates of the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor; Terri Bergman from the National Association of Workforce Boards; author Marilyn Johnson; and Ron Carlee, from the International City/County Management Association.

"Working together, libraries and the workforce system are making a real difference in communities across the United States," said Susan Hildreth, Director of IMLS. "Collaborations at the local and state levels are making it easier for citizens to access the services and resources they need. I am grateful for the excellent leadership of our partners at the Department of Labor on the federal level and to the leaders and many participants in Project Compass for making this project such a success."

"Three years after the onset of the American recession, people still flock to their public libraries for resources and guidance, and this places new demands on public library staff," said Chrystie Hill, OCLC Community Relations Director. "Project Compass offered training and support to 2500 library staff across the country, and gave them the boost they needed to continue their support for people writing resumes, applying for jobs, creating networks, or starting new businesses. I'm thrilled by the energy I've seen from our state and public library participants; they're literally powering economic recovery – and all Americans ultimately benefit from their commitment to this work."

MOUNTAINTOP LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

Join us Saturday, May 26, 9-4 at the Fire Hall in Davis, WV; Flea Market, Book Sale, Cake Walk, Children's Activities. Dance Party with Young Funk Sung, 8-Midnight at the Mountain State Brewing Co. in Thomas, WV. There will be a \$10.00 cover charge. All proceeds will benefit the New Library Building Fund.

Library Lookout

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**PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS ABOUT
WEST VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES!!!**